

**Votes & Proceedings  
Of the  
Eighteenth Parliament**

**No. 12**

**First Sitting of the Ninth Meeting  
Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

**10.00 a.m.**

1. The House met at 10 a.m. in accordance with the resolution made on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008.
2. Hon. Riddell Akua, M.P., Speaker of Parliament, took the Chair and read Prayers.
3. **Statement from the Chair**

Hon. Speaker made a statement to the House which reads as under:-

*'Honourable Members, as Speaker of this august House, I made a submission to the High Court on two matters. Firstly, under Article 32 of the Constitution and secondly under Article 36 of the same.*

*The case was heard by the Supreme Court of Nauru, presiding the case was the Rt. Hon. Chief Justice, Mr. Robin Millhouse.*

*As to the question on Article 32 of the Constitution, where the Hon. Member for Ubenide should vacate his parliamentary seat for the period of his absence, the answer by the Chief Justice was no. It is not upon his own volition that his absence had occurred.*

*As to the question on Article 36 of the Constitution, whereat if any question arises of the right of a Member to remain a Member of Parliament shall be referred to and determined by the Supreme Court, the answer was yes.*

*Details of this submission are documented and any Member who wishes to peruse them may ask the Parliamentary Counsel for a copy, or any other parliamentary staff, as well as the Clerk.*

*Our own Parliamentary Counsel represented Mr. Speaker in the matter and I sincerely thank her on this occasion.*

*With regard to the Privileges Committee Report adopted by Parliament at the last sitting, concerning several breaches of privileges by the Member for Ubenide, the recommendation has been submitted to the DPP department and shall be progressed from their end.*

*For the last two weeks the Select Committee on the Constitutional Review process had been sitting and discussing issues with the aid of the UNDP funded legal Counsel, Mr. Gerard Winters, advising. I hope the Chairman of this Committee will have an interim report in this regard.*

*As you are aware the Members' offices' construction work is well under way and I hope that it completes by mid March or at the end of it.*

*Although it may seem that matters pertinent to Parliament work is progressing there are others that have stalled. Gold leaf paint for the Members' Honour Boards is proving very difficult for our suppliers to procure. UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project has completely stopped. This project needs new donors; the left-over fund allocated by UNDP has been granted to the Constitutional Review Committee to see if their work through. The*

Secretary to PAC advert shall be advertised, perhaps, next week if there are no inputs for amending it.

*Thank you, Members for your kind attention.'*

Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) moved that the statement be noted.

4. **Questions Without Notice** were asked.

5. **Ministerial Statements & Tabling of Papers**

(a) His Excellency President Marcus Stephen made a statement to the House on his recent overseas trip which reads as under:-

*'Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to this august House the outcomes of the 2009 Pacific Islands Forum Special Leaders retreat on Fiji which I attended in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea last week on 27<sup>th</sup> January.*

*For members' information, a ministerial contact group was established by the Forum leaders and task to meet with the Fiji interim government and other relevant stake holders in order to monitor the situation in Fiji. Hence, the purpose of the meeting in Port Moresby was for leaders to consider the report of this ministerial contact group and decide on appropriate courses of action to encourage Fiji to return to a democratically elected government as soon as possible.*

*In the interest of time and gravity I will merely advise of the key decisions that leaders unanimously agreed to in Port Moresby they are as follows:*

*The leaders agreed to impose targeted measures against Fiji unless:*

- 1) The Fiji interim government nominates an election date by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009.*
- 2) That the election is held by the end of December of this year 2009.*

*The leaders also agreed that these targeted measures will comprise the following:*

- 1) Suspension of participation by the leader, ministers and officials of the Fiji interim government in all Forum meetings and events.*
- 2) Ineligibility of the Fiji interim government to benefit from Forum regional corporation initiatives and new financial and technical assistance other than assistance towards a restoration of their democracy, under the frame book of the Bitekawa declaration. The leaders further agreed that this target measures if impose will remain in place until such time as a democratic re-elected civilian parliamentary government is restored in Fiji.*

*In conclusion Mr. Speaker, I have attached a full copy of the Leaders Communicate for members to read at their own leisure. Thank you Mr. Speaker.'*

(b) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) made a statement on Inter-subhead Transfers, which reads as under:-

*'Mr. Speaker, honourable colleagues, today I tabled to Parliament the statement recording, 'inter subhead transfers' approved by Cabinet since the last sitting of Parliament.*

*Foreign Affairs head 71, the increase subhead 309 of six thousand nine hundred dollars is to pay Nauru outstanding membership fee to the International criminal court, which is not anticipated at the time of preparing the Budget of membership of which of significant diplomatic importance's to Nauru.*

*The decrease into subhead 255 will sufficient to meet the department travels commitments this financial year. Justices and Border Control head 43 and increase of two thousand dollars in subhead 309 for membership and subscriptions will meet Nauru's financial contribution towards the cost of Court ICC to enable Nauru to regain its voting rights and the Assembly of State Parties. But decrease in subhead 314 for legal expenses will*

be sufficient to cover expenses until next financial year as area been less requirement for external legal advice by government that anticipated due to a better staff Justice department on Island.

Health 61, the increase is to cater for monthly staff luncheon and wards for health employees at six hundred dollars a month for six months and one thousand dollars for annual staff day in health during this financial year. These activities have been ongoing for some years now and the funding in the current budget was accidentally were mixed by the government department at budget preparations time.

The decrease in subhead 317 for ration, hospitals will still be sufficient until the end of the financial year, due to the actual cost for hospital ration being achieve, being less than budgeted as a result of improve department efficiencies.

I attach, Mr. Speaker, a summary and the Cabinet resolutions and so this subhead transfers. Thank you Mr. Speaker.'

#### **Increases**

<b>Head</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Subhead No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Increase (\$)</b>
71	Foreign Affairs - Secretariat	309	Membership & Subscription	6,900
43	Justice & Border Control	309	Membership & Subscription	2,000
61	Health	326	Special Projects	4,000

#### **Decreases**

<b>Head</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Subhead No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Increase (\$)</b>
71	Foreign Affairs - Secretariat	255	Travel - Business	6,900
43	Justice & Border Control	314	Legal Expenses - External	2,000
61	Health	371	Rations - Hospital	4,000

(c) Hon. Mathew Batsiua (Minister for Justice & Border Control) made a statement to the House reads as follows:

*'I wish to inform this house that on 7 January 2009 Regulations made by Cabinet were published in the Gazette and came into effect, modifying the fees payable for the import of live animals. Under the previous regulations it was necessary to obtain both an import permit for live animals under the Plant and Animal Quarantine Regulations 2004 (at a cost of \$200 per animal) and also to obtain an animal import licence under the Animals Regulations 2000 (at a cost of 4400 per animal).*

*The new regulations which came into effect on 7 January 2009 are the Animals (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and the Agricultural Quarantine (Animals Import) Regulations 2008. The effect of these regulations is to remove the requirement for an import licence for live animals, and to reduce the fees payable for import permits for live animals. The cost of an import permit for live animals has been reduced from \$200 to \$20 per import, the cost of importing birds other than day old chicks has been reduced from \$20 to \$5 per bird, the cost of importing chicks remains the same at \$20 per hundred or part of a hundred, and new provision has been made for a multiple import permit at \$200 for twelve months.*

*The purpose behind the abolition of animal import licences and the reduction of import permit fees is to make the cost of importing animals less prohibitive, in recognition of the fact that most instances of live animal imports are for the purpose of breeding and food supply. The new regulations should have the effect of facilitating greater food security in Nauru. These regulations are being tabled in this House today, in accordance with the requirements of section 29(1)(c) of the Interpretation Act.*

(d) Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) made a statement on Improvements of the Telecommunications system, which reads as under:-

*‘Mr. Speaker and Honourable members, it is my pleasure to inform you and the public of the latest development involving the improvement of our nation’s telecommunication system. As you are aware, this Stephen government since July last year have taken the positive approach to review both the voice and data telecommunication system after the disappointing results of the current telecommunication system.*

*The review was conducted by a company called Challenge situated in Australia. Challenge was engaged by this government to review the current telecommunication system and put forward a plan for the improvement of the telecommunication systems on Nauru.*

*The plan proposed by Challenge was for Nauru to acquire a GSM system that would incorporate or in other words join other existing GSM system within the region for the obvious reason as being the most cost effect way to building a GSM system.*

*This meant tendering out to telecommunication operators in our region to submit proposals for a cost effective telecommunication system.*

*Importantly, Nauru also wanted a system that is reliable, manageable and has room for expansion into the future.*

*Caucus after reviewing the Challenge report agreed to have various telecommunication operators in the region approached for their expression of interest of providing a GSM telecommunication system.*

*Digicel Pacific responded positively by extending an invitation for a meeting to be held at the earliest. Unfortunately no other operators officially responded within the time. This meeting between Nauru and Digicel took place in Nadi on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January of this year. In attendance from Nauru side was the Minister for Finance, Foreign Affairs & Trade, the special government advisor Mr Manish Sudagee and myself.*

*After two exhaustive days with meeting with Digicel Representatives, a memorandum of understanding was finally agreed to and was signed. The MOU was subject to cabinet approval.*

*I am pleased to announce that the MOU was approved by cabinet last week 27 January 2009 giving the ministry of telecommunication the directive to pursue the objective of the MOU and that is to build the world class system here on Nauru.*

*This MOU states the following;*

- *GSM Mobile phone services*
- *A fixed wireless phone service*
- *GPRS/EDGE providing wireless data service (email & internet)*
- *International roaming in 12D countries*
- *International gateway thru the Digicel Hub in Nadi, Fiji*
- *With the development of a island wide Wimax data network as a second stage development.*
- *A initial cash requirement up to USS I million to cover all operational expenditure of Digicel in Nauru for up to three years.*

*The MOU further states that Digicel will bring to the table its expertise in management, marketing, customer relations, training and technical matters to operate and manage the service under a new company to be incorporated in Nauru as “Digicel (Nauru) Limited”*

*A value of all the service and operational cost and including using their brand name of infrastructure, such as buildings, equipments including communication towers. Nauru will also provide useable assets that are owned by Rontel.*

*Nauru Government is requested by Digicel to provide the various tax exemptions such as import duties on telecommunication equipment, exemption on License fees, exemption on withholding tax and corporate taxes, however consumption taxes on all telecommunications*

service which is estimated to initially return between \$170,00 to \$375,00 (depending on the number of subscribers) per annum will be levied on Digicel.

In return for this investment, and concessions, the government of Nauru will own a 20% shareholding in Digicel Nauru. This will entitle the government to 20% dividend in net annual profits of roughly \$130, 00 by the third year. This will be on top of the tax income.

Another swing off from the introduction of a reliable quality and affordable telecommunications service on Nauru is the wide ranging social, economic and development benefits that cannot be easily quantified, however economic analysis of the benefits of where Digicel have been rolled out reveal a economic impact of 3-4% growth in GDP. As an example, in PNG, a 0.8% growth of PNG'S GDP within three months of the Digicel roll out was recorded.

It is expected that Nauru's investment will be fully recovered within 4-5 years.

But, there are some benefits which mean putting a value on it, is impossible, such benefits can be considered to some people to be priceless.

A true benefit that cannot be put a value on by the introduction of this Digicel mobile system is the benefit of having the emergency department at your finger tips. Unfortunately we have experience many times the frustrating situation where an emergency has occurred such as traffic accidents, medical emergency, fire or other disasters at homes which due to the lack of a reliable and working mobile system have resulted in that emergency not being attended too in efficient time to help save the situation. I do believe that Digicel can help very much in those kind of situation.

Given all that has been stated, the introduction of a world class telecommunication system that is reliable and affordable is indeed priceless, not only to the individual person, but also to the business community and the nation as a whole. The Digicel systems have back up after back up internationally is as reliable as the sun coming up to greet you every morning.

Unfortunately, this proposal will lead up to the closure of Rontel. This Stephen Government has committed itself to ensuring that funds derived from this project will be prioritise to benefit those employers of Rontel affected by this change. Digicel has also express their interest in retraining good workers from Rontel, but that option is 100% in the hands of Digicel.

On this note, I on behalf on the Government and the people do thank the Chairman, the Board, the management and all the staff at Rontel for their service for many many years.

At this stage, both Nauru and Digicel Pacific are working towards finalizing the shareholders agreement contract that will give more details on the investment Nauru is entering. This contract is expected to be completed and signed by the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month.

Once the agreement it is signed it is expected that the roll out date for Digicel Nauru will be no later than 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

Yes, this means that come first July 2009 (that's in 5 months) you can be 20 kilometers out in the open sea battling a 20 kilogram big eye tuna on a boat or catching 50 noddy birds in the middle of the pinnacles in the centre of the island or up a coconut tree cutting toddy, when suddenly! BLING! BLING! Your mobile phone rings and it's your better half wanting you to bring that fish, bird or that toddy home for immediate consumption, or!, it could be the New York Ambassador thousands of miles away on the other side of the island wanting to know the weather in Nauru.

Mr. Speaker and honourable Members, A new era in telecommunication is about to be experienced by this nation. I have no doubt that this new foreign investment to Nauru will help elevate the living standard of all Nauruans.

Mr. Speaker and honourable Members, with these words I thank all for your kind attention'

Mr. Scotty (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare) moved that the paper be noted.

(e) Hon. Mathew Batsiua (Minister for Justice) made a statement on Audit on Border Control of the Ministry of Justice, which reads as under:

*‘Mr. Speaker I stand my capacity as Minister for Justice to give a statement on the audit on border control sections of the Ministry of Justice.*

*Mr. Speaker, Cabinet at its meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2008 approved the appointment of a consultant, Mr. Richard Salton, to carry out a six week audit that would consider the functions of all border control areas namely, the Customs, Quarantine and Immigration sections of the Justice department.*

*This audit involved a full review of the existing systems and procedures of these three key border control sections and to come up with recommended solutions to redress the identified shortfalls and weaknesses of the system.*

*Mr. Speaker, the consultant used for this audit is Mr. Richard Salton. He has extensive experience in border control in Australia, and Cabinet is satisfied that his vast experience will provide the necessary results. This decision has been vindicated already by the identification of falsified customs documents and the recovery of lost government revenue amounting to around \$80,000. I will detail this later on in this statement.*

*Mr. Speaker, the audit conducted will also involve the review of:-*

- *Passengers and crew movements in and out of Nauru*
- *Accompanied and unaccompanied baggage moving in and out of Nauru*
- *All cargo movements including trans-shipments in and out of Nauru*
- *Postal articles including those by way of courier services, in and out of Nauru*
- *Port security*
- *Immigration and visa procedures for all travels in and out of Nauru*

*Mr. Speaker, attention will also be made on administrative and management arrangements, including corporate structure, resource infrastructure and technical requirements with specific attention to inefficiencies in process and irregularities that occur from time to time.*

*Mr. Speaker, there was always an intention of this Government to undertake a full review of our border control procedures in light of new global threats and the need for us to remain vigilant and in synch with modern challengers and requirements of all border control sections in all jurisdictions, so we are not seen to be the weak link in the region.*

*However the appointment of the consultant to immediately undertake this important audit work became necessary as in the weeks leading up to the engagement, the Justice department began discovering anomalies with customs documentations that unearthed a practice by several business, mainly Chinese importers, of doctoring invoices dating back to early 2007. This illegal practice was done deliberately by these business houses for the sole purposes of evading duties.*

*Unfortunately these deliberate acts of doctoring invoices have gone unnoticed by border control officials over some years. This lack of attention by these officials is being investigated and I have given clear directives to the department to involve the Police for further investigation should our own departmental inquiry indicates enough grounds to warrant such actions. This internal inquiry is ongoing.*

*Notwithstanding these recent events have spurred on the Ministry of Justice to ensure that practices in the past that enabled such doctoring to take place be stopped and the audit underway will focus on what is required to prevent such activities ultimately making the system more robust and effective.*

*Mr. Speaker, it is the estimate of the Justice department that we will be able to recoup lost duties to an approximate amount of \$80,000. Admittedly much more would have been*

lost over the years as this problem of falsification of official documents and accommodating attitudes within border control sections is systemic. Notwithstanding we are making a change in this area; falsified documents are being uncovered, business people involved, mainly of Chinese origins have been severely reprimanded, their goods confiscated and they are being compelled to pay the correct duty amounts to the Government.

Further actions are also being considered against these offenders which will involve Police and charges being laid. Chronic offenders will lose their business visas and forced to leave Nauru and (black listed) from returning ever again.

Moreover, border control officials who did not notice these fraudulent activities are also being investigated by the department and will be referred to Police if required. Disciplinary charges for neglect of duties will be initiated where appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, Cabinet expects a final report at the end of the consultancy, which is due before the end of February 2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.'

(f) Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) made a statement on Provision of Air Transport Services to the Republic of Kiribati', which reads as follows:-

*'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I wish to bring to the attention of this House and the Public of the progress of Our Airline in trying to bring air service back between Nauru, Marshalls, Kiribati and ultimately Fiji.*

*On the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 2008, the Kiribati Government sent out to all the aviators in the Pacific Region a request for proposal, RFP. The request was in two parts:*

- 1. To seek any interest Airline to comments a service between Kiribati and Fiji*
- 2. To seek any Airline to provide a service between Fiji, Christmas Island and Honolulu*

*In response to the RFP, our Airline immediately started preparing a proposal that will accommodate the needs of the RFP. As part of our Airline strategy, that they and the Government of Nauru have a meeting with the government of Kiribati to discuss the RFP in detail so Our Airline will submit a proposal that accurate to the minutes of detail.*

*Fortunately for us the Kiribati Government were in a position to accept our invitation to a meeting.*

*On January 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and I accompanied by the Government special advisor, the former CEO of Our Airline and the Chairman of Our Airline met the Kiribati delegation in Nadi.*

*The sole purpose of the meeting was to workshop the RFP between the two parties to really dive deep into the issues of what is it that the Kiribati government wants out of the air services. And for Our Airline to custom make a proposal that will meet those wants and needs.*

*During that long meeting that went well into the night, I am pleased to say that our team did not leave any stone unturned. To date this government and Board and management of Our Airline have spent considerable effort in the past year and a half in trying to win back this route.*

*I must remind us that the air service route between Kiribati and Fiji according to the airlines record is corner pillar to the airline service coming to Nauru.*

*The meeting was very fruitful to us and as a result Our Airline original proposal was amended accordingly as per the information received from the meeting. Our Airline has submitted its 27 pages official proposal within the requested time frame on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January.*

*We are now awaiting the results from our proposal, which according to the Kiribati government may take p to the end of this month due to the huge response they receive from the RFP (estimated at approximately 15 airlines have responded).*

*I am not sure of the outcome but I do know one thing and that is both Our Airline and this Stephen Government have done everything that was needed to done to win the contract was done. And I mean everything from the highest office right down to middle management have been involved. I thank them for their time and effort.*

*I thank the Kiribati Government for giving Our Airline the opportunity to submit a proposal and I also thank Our Airline for their hard work never give up attitude over the years to win back the route not only for the benefit of the airline but ultimately for the benefit of the people of Nauru.*

*Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members I will update the house as soon as the results of the proposal is known. Thank you for lending me your ears.'*

(g) His Excellency President Marcus Stephen made a statement and tabled to the House the 'Special Audit Report, which reads as under:-

*'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, as prescribed under Article 66(2) of the Constitution of Nauru subsection 3 of the Audit Act of 1973, the Director of Audit is required to submit the Audit Report to Parliament. However, such report was never submitted to Parliament from 1998-1999 Financial year to date for variety of reason.*

*It pleases me to inform Members of this House that the new Director of Audit has now prepared a special report on the working of various departments of the Government of Nauru and state owned enterprise for the periods 1998 – 2008.*

*In absence of any annual account of the Government ceased 1998-1999 Financial year, this special report will continue to serve the presence of audit services for the time being.*

*As Minister for Audit, I have great pleasure in tabling the Special Audit Report to this August House. Thank you Mr. Speaker.'*

## **6. Motion – Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 1008-2009**

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance), under S.O. 189 moved to present the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2008-2009.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

**First Reading** - The Bill was presented and read a first time.

## **7. Motion – Second Reading**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

Second reading speech ensued.

Under S.O. 159 further debate on the second reading was adjourned to a future date.

## **8. Motion – Suspension of Standing Order 195**

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) moved that S.O. 159 be suspended to enable the second reading debate to proceed forthwith.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

Question put and passed.

Debate ensued.



Question put and passed.  
The Bill was read a second time.

**9. Letter of Recommendation**

The Chair read the following letter of recommendation -

*“I, Marcus Stephen, President of the Republic of Nauru as Chairman on the Cabinet and in pursuant of the resolution of the Cabinet hereby notify Parliament that the purpose of the withdrawal from the Treasury Fund as proposed by the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2008 – 2009 is recommended to the Parliament by the Cabinet  
Given under my hand this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February 2009..  
(Signed) Marcus Stephen, President, President and Chairman of Cabinet.’*

**10. Motion – Leave sought for**

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) sought leave of the House to move a motion.  
His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.  
Leave was granted.

**11. Motion – Third Reading**

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.  
His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.  
Question put and passed.  
The Bill was read a third time.

**12. Leave of Absence**

His Excellency Marcus Stephen sought leave of absence for Hon. Frederick Pitcher (Minister for CIE) and Mr. Amwano who were overseas on government business.  
Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) seconded.  
Leave was granted.

The Chair, with the consensus of the House, suspended the sitting and to resume when the bells ring.

**Resumed.**

**13. Motion – Leave Sought for**

Mr. Waqa (Boe) as Deputy Chairman of the Select Committee on Constitutional Amendment Bills sought leave of the House to make a statement, followed by a motion.  
His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.  
Leave was granted.

**14. Motion**

Mr. Waqa (Boe), as Deputy Chairman of the Select Committee on Constitutional Amendment Bills made the following statement, followed by a motion seeking to postpone the date for presentation of the Committee’s report:-

*‘Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Chairman and the members of the Select Committee on Constitutional Amendments Bills I am pleased to inform this House of the progress made by the Committee thus far.*

*The Select Committee, which was formed by a motion in this House on 18 December 2008, held its first meeting as required by its terms of reference on 5 January 2009. The Committee set to work on planning the manner in which it would complete the tasks that have been referred to it, of inquiring into the Constitutional amendment Bills and considering whether it is necessary or desirable to make any amendments to those Bills. The Committee determined that once it had disposed of administrative matters, all meetings at which the substantive issues relating to the constitutional amendment Bills are discussed would be held in the Parliamentary Chamber and would be open to the public.*

*On 19 January the Committee commenced an intensive period of work, meeting in the Chamber for four hours almost every day to discuss the constitutional amendment Bills and other relevant material to which the Committee may refer. The Committee was grateful to have the advice of legal consultant Gerard Winter from New Zealand, who is funded by the UNDP. The Committee made good progress during the two week period of intensive meetings, which concluded on 30 January. The Committee has so far made some minor amendments to the Bills, and has also deferred a number of more difficult questions to its next session of meetings.*

*The Select Committee will continue this work, meeting every afternoon for two or three weeks commencing on 16<sup>th</sup> February, on behalf of the Committee I would like to encourage members of the public to attend the public gallery to observe these meetings of the Committee, and to talk to your members about any issues of interest or concern that arise from these meetings.*

*As a result of the Committee’s legal consultant having to attend to other commitments, it has been necessary to extend the timetable of the Committee beyond 16 February, which is the date on which the Committee is required to report to Parliament. I therefore move Mr. Speaker, a motion on or before which the Select Committee on Constitutional Amendment Bill is required to report to this House be changed to 27 March 2009. Thank you’*

## **15. Motion**

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen moved that motions Nos. 1 to 8 on the notice paper be deferred to the next sitting.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) seconded.

Question put and passed.

## **16. Order of the Day No. 1 – Shipping Bill 2008**

*The House to resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the Bill.*

### **Motion**

Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) moved that Order of the Day No. 1 be adjourned and made an Order of the Day at the next sitting.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) seconded.

Question put and passed.

**17. Orders of the Day Nos. 2 and 3**

The Chair informed the House that Orders of the Day Nos. 2 and 3 were put on the notice paper for information of Members as they are being considered by the Constitutional Review Committee Select Committee.

**18. Order of the Day No. 4**

*Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb – Resumption of debate on the question that the report be adopted.*

**Motion**

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen moved the following motion – *‘That this House refer the Report of the Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb back to the Committee in order to enable the Committee to consider providing in its Report more detailed explanation of the extent of the authority of Nauru’s Head of State, more detailed explanation of the special circumstances of the matter that was referred to the Committee and additional recommendations in relation to dealing with situations in which the Speaker issues unlawful instructions, and that the Committee report back to Parliament on or before 20 March 2009.’*

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) seconded.

Question put and passed.

The Chair suspended the sitting to look into some house-keeping matters raised by the Minister for Justice

**Resumed.**

**19. Statement from the Chair**

The Chair informed Members that there is substance in the point raised by the Hon. Minister for Justice and that the matter has been noted and will be included in the notice paper for the next sitting.

**20. Motion Fixing a date and time for the next sitting**

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen moved that Parliament at its sitting do adjourn until a time and date to be fixed by the Chair.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) seconded.

Question put and passed.

**21. Adjournment**

His Excellency the President moved that the House do now adjourn.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) seconded.

Debate ensued.

**22. Leave of Absence**

Mr. Waqa (Boe) sought leave of absence for Mr. Bernicke (Buada).  
Mr. Scotty (Anabar/Ijuw//Anibare) seconded.  
Leave was granted.

**23. Adjournment**

Debate continued.  
Question put and passed.

And then the House at thirty minutes past six o'clock p.m. adjourned until a time and date to be fixed by the Chair.

**Members Present**

All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except –

*	Mr. Pitcher	*	Mr. Amwano
*	Mr. Bernicke	**	Mr. Adeang

John Garabwan  
**Deputy Clerk of Parliament**

\* Leave of Absence  
\*\* Suspension